



March Issue

# North I-25 Express Lanes Project Update

Spring is in the air, but don't forget that March is often our snowiest month! Pay attention to changing weather conditions and drive carefully through construction zones. Ninety percent of crashes are a result of human error, and of those human errors, distracted driving is at the top of the list. Please keep your eyes on the road and "Slow for the Cone Zone." This will keep our roads and our crews safe!

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The I-25 construction team has made great progress in the past 150 working days. Many features of this project, however, may not be visible from the road. There are three bridges along this corridor that will be expanded to accommodate the new, wider lanes. These bridges include Bull Creek Canal, Big Dry Creek, and the RTD bus and pedestrian tunnels. Extensive utility work and the installation of new sound walls are also underway.

## Bull Creek Canal Box Culvert

The most visible change to motorists is the traffic shift at 144th Avenue, which occurred on February 2, 2017. This shift accommodates construction in the center of the highway. What many may not know is that the Bull Creek Canal passes right underneath the interstate through a structure called a box culvert, which allows water to flow under the road from one side to the other. This box culvert is being expanded and updated to accommodate the new, wider configuration of the highway. The new traffic configuration needed to accommodate this work will be in place until spring when the box culvert is completed.



Bull Creek Canal at 144th Ave. and I-25

## Stay Informed

**Public Information Hotline:**

(720) 737-5118

**Email Inquiries:**

[i25northconstruction@gmail.com](mailto:i25northconstruction@gmail.com)

**Sign Up for Email Updates:**

[www.tinyurl.com/i25-north-express](http://www.tinyurl.com/i25-north-express)

## Ways to Commute

Smart Commute Metro North is offering great incentives to help you commute smarter! For more information or to sign up, check out:

[www.smartcommutemetronorth.org/idrivei25](http://www.smartcommutemetronorth.org/idrivei25)



Project Boundary



### Big Dry Creek Bridge

Between 136th Avenue and 128th Avenue, Big Dry Creek and Big Dry Creek Trail pass under I-25. Work is currently taking place at this location to expand the bridge abutments that will support the new girders. The trail will be closed until summer for pedestrian safety, however, residents can expect to enjoy an updated trail surface when the path re-opens this summer.

### RTD Bus & Pedestrian Tunnel

South of 120th Avenue, work has begun on the RTD bus tunnel expansion. Work in this area will require the closure of the pedestrian tunnel to the RTD Wagon Road Park-n-Ride. It is estimated that the tunnel will be closed from April through May of 2017. Dates are subject to change due to weather conditions. Detour routes will be posted and up-to-date information can be found on the project website.

### Utility Work and Sound Walls

In this same area, utility work is still underway. This includes moving power lines underground, and relocating phone and Internet lines. Additionally, land on the west side of the highway, south of 120th Avenue, is being prepared for the installation of new mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) sound walls.

MSE sound walls reduce noise by blocking the direct travel of sound waves from a highway to adjacent homes, forcing the waves over the top or around the wall. The new sound walls on the North I-25 Express Lanes project will be made of concrete, replacing the previous wood fences. The new walls will greatly reduce traffic noise in the adjacent neighborhoods.



Big Dry Creek Bridge, south of 136th Ave.



RTD Bus Tunnel, south of 120th Ave.



Rendering of Sound Walls, south of 120th Ave.



Project Boundary



## BACKGROUND

The North I-25 Express Lanes project from 120th Avenue to Northwest Parkway/E-470 is a \$97.5 million project that will improve safety, capacity and user choice in a rapidly developing region.

This project will continue the previous Express Lanes project, which was completed on I-25 between US 36 and 120th Avenue, and will extend the Express Lanes to Northwest Parkway/E-470. The project will add capacity on I-25 up to Northwest Parkway/E-470 and construct a new asphalt surface from 120th Avenue to Colorado Highway 7. Motorists can expect the roadway to be in its final alignment by winter 2018.

Construction will take place Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with periodic night and weekend work. Motorists can expect various lane closures on both northbound and southbound I-25 as well as periodic ramp closures. Traffic will be maintained during peak travel times throughout construction.

## About Express Lanes

Express Lanes increase roadway capacity and help to manage congestion on the highways. The use of toll pricing during peak travel times reduces delays, manages congestion and maintains reliable travel times. Express Lanes currently are open between:

- 120th Avenue and US 36 on North I-25
- US 36 from Denver to Boulder
- I-70 Mountain Express Lane

For more information, visit [www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes](http://www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes). To get an ExpressToll account and pass, visit [www.expresstoll.com](http://www.expresstoll.com).

## Traffic Impacts

Construction will take place Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with periodic night and weekend work.

### Impacts will include:

- Lane closures
- Ramp closures
- Reduced speed limits
- Lane shifts
- Trail closures

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I-25 at 144th Ave.